The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

February 2007 Issue No. 431

LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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Please Don't Let This Happen to RARSFest

Article Courtesy "The ARRL Letter" Vol. 25 No. 38 (September 22, 2006). American Radio Relay League.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SECTION CONVENTION HOST CANCELS FUTURE HAMFESTS

Just two days after hosting the ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Convention September 10, the Butler County Amateur Radio Association (BCARA) <http://www.w3udx.org/> voted to throw in the towel and get out of the hamfest business. The main reason, cited in the September issue of the club's Tell-A-Ham newsletter, is a lack of member involvement.

"The few, dependable workers have burned out," wrote BCARA Treasurer Kevin Berry, KF4RMA, who edits the newsletter and took on tasks this year as hamfest vendor chairman, parking chairman, treasurer and flyer preparation, among others. According to the newsletter, fewer that one-quarter of the club's 80 members pitched in to make the hamfest happen this year, and nearly all handled multiple duties during the event.

The September 10 gathering at the Butler County Farm Show Fairgrounds was the club's 29th annual hamfest. Whether it's also the last, BCARA President Jim Love, W1JHL, told ARRL, is in the hands of the membership.

"If we can get the manpower that is required to support the hamfest we will continue the tradition," he said. "However, this year, as in the recent past, we have not received the needed help."

RARSFest will be Sunday, April 1, 2007 @ the NC State Fairgrounds from 8 am to 3:30 pm.

For additional information, please visit www.rars.org/hamfest.

RARS Officers

President:
Dick Bitner
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ncsol@bellsouth.net

Vice-President:
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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are $18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are $9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS web site (RARS.org).

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

The *Exciter*

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available.

Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

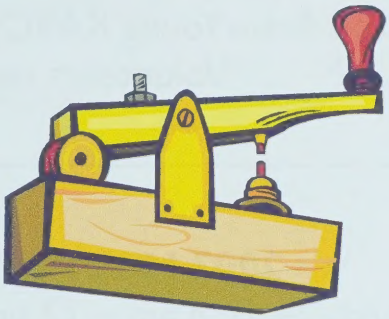
The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

Editor:
Courtney Enzor
KI4HOS
courtney_enzor@yahoo.com

Next RARS Meeting: February 6th

Mark your calendar for the next RARS meeting! We'll be having a special program by Wayne Starnes KU4V. He'll be presenting "3YOX Peter-I Island DXpedition." It's sure to be interesting!

RARS will also be providing VE testing at the February meeting. For information about what you need to bring, see the column to the right. This may be the last opportunity to take the CW test due to the recent change in licensure and Morse Code. Don't miss your chance!



VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm.
The meeting officially starts at 7:30 pm.

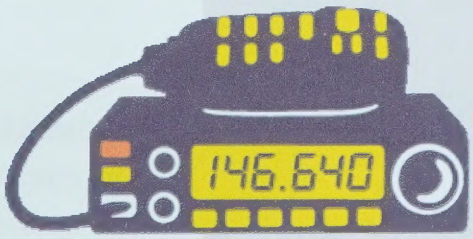
RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
444.525 (82.5 PL)



Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

Public Service Opportunities

Odyssey of the Mind Eastern Region Tournament
Saturday, March 3 @ 7 am – 3 pm (times are approximate)
Wakefield High School and Middle School
Equipment needed: 2 meter HT, earphones, pencil and paper.
Silly hats, an Odyssey of the Mind tradition, are optional.
Coordinator: Brian Young KA9QJT ka9qjt@hotmail.com
*Volunteers needed.

2007 MS Walk in RTP
Saturday, March 24 @ 8 am – 12 pm (times are approximate)
RTP
Equipment needed: 2 meter HT, earphones, pencil and paper.
*Coordinator and radio volunteers needed.
Contact Dick KD4ISC kd4isc@arrl.net

Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament
Saturday, March 31 @ 7 am – 3 pm (times are approximate)
Leesville High, Middle, and Elementary Schools
Equipment needed: 2 meter HT, earphones, pencil and paper.
Silly hats, an Odyssey of the Mind tradition, are optional.
*Coordinator and radio volunteers needed.
Contact Dick KD4ISC kd4isc@arrl.net

Visit the RARS website for up-to-the-minute announcements, current information, and special features at www.rars.org.

Welcome New RARS Members!

Curt Phillips W4CP

Hamfest Calendar

February 3	ARRL SC State Convention Ladson, SC
February 18	Frostfest/ARRL VA State Convention Richmond, VA
March 10-11	NC ARRL Section Convention Charlotte, NC
March 25	Down East Hamfest Kinston, NC
April 1	NC ARRL State Convention Raleigh, NC
April 15	Hamfest Chesapeake, VA

Dates courtesy of *SERA Repeater Journal* and other sources. If you would like your even listed in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

February Birthdays

Maury	WW4MC	2/2
Danny	KD4RAA	2/2
Selene	KG4RMT	2/3
LOS	AF0AA	2/3
Bill	W1REP	2/5
Art	W2JNW	2/6
Larry	N4LEW	2/7
Marty	KA1LXG	2/8
Bill	KN4IX	2/8
Carl	KU4HM	2/9
Harriette	KF4SER	2/10
Buddy	KD4PCD	2/10
Jim	K4HCG	2/12
Dennis	K4DAM	2/13
Bob	AG4OP	2/13
John	KG4SWI	2/15
Randy	KI4OAV	2/17
Rick	KG4KKZ	2/18
Don	NJ2E	2/18
Mike	AF4WY	2/19
Howard	K3EPN	2/19
Joe	N1LVN	2/21
John	KB4IP	2/21
John	KI4ODP	2/25
Joe	W4TTO	2/25
Bob	WX4MMM	2/26
Tom	WA4OTA	2/27
Hans	W2UF	2/27
Lee	KE4EMY	2/29

December 2006 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net
Check-ins: 479
Traffic: 31/27
Minutes: 759
Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets
Check-ins: 99
Minutes: 440
Sessions: 14

Did You Know...That RARS has a List Server?

Article by
Jeff Wittich AC4ZO
RARS List Operator

What is a List Server?

If you're like a lot of people, you might ask, "what is a list server?" It's a common question. A list server is a program that runs on a computer – in our case, it's in Chapel Hill. This program's job is to receive an email from someone and send it to lots of other people. It works on a subscription basis. The people receiving the message are "subscribers" to the list. So far so good? Great!

What Does This Mean to Me?

RARS has a list server for the purpose of allowing club members to pass along news, stories, technical information, and even "for sale" advertisements to other club members. Being a subscriber on the list is strictly voluntary. At the moment, there are less than a hundred subscribers on the list. Anyone of these subscribers can send email to ALL the other subscribers by addressing their email to the list address. How much does it cost to subscribe? It's free – just another benefit of membership in the Club.

The caretaker of the list manages it with a "jello fist." Although no personal attacks or insults are permitted, there are very few restrictions as to what can be in an email going to the list. Anything ham related, or that might be of interest to hams, is allowed. This includes computer-related topics as well, since most of us now have a computer in the hamshack. Heck, even topics concerning donuts qualify, since we have them at our club meetings.

How Does it Work?

Say you want to send a message to club members telling them that we're having an excellent guest speaker at the next meeting. You would type up an ordinary email, informing everyone of the sensational tasty treats that will be available at the meeting, and set the subject line to something clever, so we'll all read the message. Then, in the "to" box where you put the addressee, put "rars-l@rtpnet.org" but do it without the quotation marks. Notice that it is a lowercase "L" and not the digit one (1) after the dash.

(Continued on next page)

In about a minute, the email will be sent to all the subscribers on the list, and everyone will look forward to an interesting meeting night that month. That's it!

How Many Messages Will I Get?

Another common question I get is "how many messages will I get? I already have too much email coming in." Well, the answer is that it varies from month to month. It's averaging less than a message a day. Last year there were about 4 messages a week. Usually, there will be several weeks with no messages, then someone will send a message. For the next few days, there may be 2 or 3 replies a day to that one message. When things flare up like this, you could get 10 or 15 emails in one week. Generally speaking, it's a very small amount of traffic and doesn't tax most people's inbox at all. Many subscribers are "lurkers." That means they read all the messages sent to the list, but rarely, if ever, send an email to the list. I fall into that category myself.

How Do I Become a Subscriber?

To become a list subscriber, just send email to me at ac4zo@arrl.net and give me your email address. I will verify your membership, and then add you to the list. If you have more than one address, such as a work address and a home address, I can put them both on the list so you receive the emails at both places. This also allows you to send an email to the list from either location.

For answers to detailed questions about how the list operates, just email me at the above address, or give me a call at (919) 362-4787 and I'll see if I can answer them.

Board Meeting - November 2006

Minutes of the RARS Board of Meeting for November 2006

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on November 21, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Dick Bitner W8HYD, Virginia Enzor NC4VA, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, and Dick Orander KD4ISC.

President Dick Bitner W8HYD called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

On a motion from Hank K4HM and a second from Jeff AC4ZO, the October Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's report – Greg KE4PAX advised there were 225 RARS members.

Vice President's report – Selene KG4RMT informed the group that refreshment donations were down at the last meeting. She attributed this to a smaller attendance at the November meeting. The December general meeting will be held in the downstairs room. Refreshments will be available at 7 pm and the meeting will begin at 7:30 pm. The Encore Singers will provide the program. Dick W8HYD volunteered to pick up the coffee for the meeting.

Education – Virginia NC4VA provided the following reports:

- She is still awaiting approval of the schedule by Cisco for the next Technician class. Once this detail is settled, announcements about the class will be made on the nets, in the Exciter, and on the webpage. Greg KE4PAX will order a case of the latest manuals for the class.
- The new MARA net is off to a good start. The last net had 16 check-ins and ran for more than an hour with many new hams participating.

Public Information Officer – Gary KN4AQ reported he has sent an email to the News and Observer advising them of the upcoming Simulated Emergency Test and Skywarn Recognition Day activities. There was also discussion about the recent newspaper article featuring the JARS group.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM advised a hamfest committee meeting was conducted in October. The next one will be held in January. There was another visit to the Fairground's Expo building to get a better feel for the layout for the hamfest.

(Continued on next page)

Board Meeting - November 2006

Bids are out for printing the RARSfest flyers. The webpage is out of date. The password to the site has been changed and Hank has not been able to make updates for RARSfest. Requests for the password have been denied by the Webmaster and Hank has been advised to wait until after the Board meeting for possible access.

Public service – Dick KD4ISC reported all who participated with the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) had a good time. He hopes that we will participate again next year. The remainder of the year appears to be free of any additional public service activities. March of next year will be busy. The MS Society has requested help for a walk on March 24. The Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament will be held on March 3 and the State event will be on March 31 (the Saturday before RARSfest). Hank K4HM reported on the requirement of the Habitat for Humanity event in which they would be required to sign a waiver in order to participate. Bill Cole KG4CXY, who was coordinating the event, advised he was not participating due to the waiver requirement.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF advised the ARRL is interested in receiving comments about recent rule changes.

Repeater Trustee – Jeff AC4ZO reported that all is well. Gary KN4AQ advised of a recent warning he provided to a ham on the 64 repeater due to some unfavorable language and behavior. Gary has also heard from an Official Observer and control operator in the JARS club who has experienced similar problems with this person.

New Business

Jeff AC4ZO asked the Board for clarification of duties concerning the email lists used by RARS. Dick W8HYD also asked the group for some general ground rules to be used for the email list and for those who need access to the RARS webpage. Jeff provided a review of the facts of recent emails and discussions that have taken place concerning the RARS mailing list. A lengthy discussion of these events followed. The group also discussed the removal and re-entry of a member from the email list due to concerns of misuse of the list. A discussion of the RARS Yahoo list followed. The general consensus for the group was to allow Jeff AC4ZO to have control over the two RARS email lists (rars-l and rarsboard-l). Steve KB4HDQ would have control over the webpage and the Yahoo email list. Steve could eliminate the Yahoo email list at his discretion. An advisory announcement should be placed on the RARS webpage advising that Jeff AC4ZO is the contact person for RARS email issues and Steve KB4HDQ is responsible for the webpage itself. Jeff's and Steve's functions would be independent of each other.

(Continued on next page)

Board Meeting - November 2006

The group also agreed that there was no need to take action against the person thought of misusing the email list and that he should continue to have access to this service. There was further discussion about the Treasurer and Hamfest Committee Chairperson not having password access to update their areas of the RARS webpage. It was suggested that Dick W8HYD talk with Steve to see why these two no longer have webpage access and see what can be worked out to correct the problem. There was further discussion about the webpage. Dick W8HYD will speak with Steve KB4HDQ to advise him on the Board's thoughts and decisions.

Greg KE4PAX advised a check has been sent to the ARRL for the contest plaque that our club sponsors.

Gary KN4AQ made a motion to cancel the December Board meeting. A second was provided by Chuck K4HF. The vote carried in favor of the motion.

General Comments

Dick KD4ISC expressed disappointment that RARS is starting another year without a public service director. The club needs to re-examine its role and desire to participate in public service activities. The number of members volunteering for events continues to decline. No one offered to coordinate or learn to coordinate a single event last year. It was suggested that some one-on-one recruiting for events take place. The new hams participating in the MARA net may be another source of volunteers.

Selene KG4RMT advised the refreshment donation box will not be used at the December meeting since members will be bringing snacks of their own.

Greg KE4PAX reported the storage area used by RARS has changed names. The rental rate has also changed. The unit rent has been paid through June 30 to match our fiscal year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander KD4ISC
RARS Secretary

Extra Board Meeting - January 2007

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Special Meeting for January 2007

A special Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on January 2, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Dick Bitner W8HYD, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, Rod Thomson KI4LSN, Charlie Swindell WB4DCM, and Dick Orander KD4ISC.

President Dick Bitner W8HYD called the meeting to order at 9:10 pm following the general RARS meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the issue of access and/or control of the club's website. To date, Hank K4HM does not have access to the website for posting RARSfest updates, Greg Seamster KE4PAX does not have access for Treasurer updates, and Courtney Enzor KI4HOS cannot directly post the newsletter. Dick advised that the Webmaster, Steve Worley KB4HDQ, desires to have control over the website as well as the email lists. There were delays in relaying to Steve the Board's decision concerning the webpage and email lists from the November meeting. After a review of the draft minutes of the November meeting and a discussion of what the Board wants, the consensus of the group was:

Jeff AC4ZO is responsible for the RARS email lists (rars-l and rarsboard-l). He will use his judgment in moderating the list. This task is independent from the Webmaster's duties.

Provide access to the website for Hank K4HM, Greg KE4PAX, and Courtney KI4HOS so that they may make updates relevant to their club responsibilities.

Dick KD4ISC will send out the draft copy of the November Board meeting minutes for review as soon as possible.

Dick W8HYD will contact Steve KB4HDQ and relay tonight's discussion and decisions by the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander KD4ISC
RARS Secretary

General Meeting - January 2007

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for January 2007

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on January 2, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

President Dick Bitner W8HYD called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

The following guests were recognized and welcomed to the meeting: Curt Phillips W4CP, Zack Hamm W4ZAH, and Glen Whitehouse K1GW.

Door prizes were won by Steve Ferrarini KJ4BX and Hank Montgomery K4HM.

Announcements:

- The monthly RARS dinner will be held next Tuesday (the 9th) at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue at 6:30 pm.
- The next RARS meeting will be on Tuesday, February 6 and will include VE testing.
- The Richmond Virginia Frostfest will be held on February 18.
- The Charlotte hamfest will be on March 10 and 11.
- RARSfest will be held on Sunday, April 1.

Dick W8HYD thanked all of those who volunteered and helped the club last year. He advised our help will be needed again this year.

Hank Montgomery K4HM reported that RARSfest 2007 will be held at the Exposition building at the NC State Fairgrounds on April 1, 2007. There are plenty of volunteer positions available to assist with the event. Anyone interested in helping out can contact Hank at k4hm@arrl.net .

Jeff Wittich AC4ZO presented an NTS Traffic Training Certificate to Charlie Swindell WB4DCM, recognizing his completion of the course.

Dick Orander KD4ISC made the following public service activity announcements:

- The Eastern Regional Odyssey of the Mind tournament will be held at the Wakefield Middle School on March 3.
- An MS Walk will be held at RTP on March 24.
- The State Odyssey of the Mind tournament will be held at Leesville

General Meeting - January 2007

High, Middle, and Elementary Schools on March 31.

A ham radio coordinator and ham volunteers are needed for each of these events. Contact Dick at kd4isc@arrl.net to sign up for one or all of these fun public service activities.

Members interested in volunteering for the September 8 and 9 MS150 in New Bern should make their hotel reservations as soon a possible. Rooms in the area are being booked up quickly.

Dick W8HYD read the Treasurer's report. There are 226 RARS members.

The floor was given to Selene Montgomery KG4RMT for the evening program. Selene asked each member to stand up, introduce themselves, and tell a little bit about their ham radio history and interests.

Dick W8HYD reminded members of a VE exam session at the Smithfield Red Cross building on the third Saturday of the month. He also asked those participating in the HF Challenge to complete their entry forms (available at the RARS website) and turn them in as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Dick Orander KD4ISC
RARS Secretary

Amateur Radio Nets

The RARS Technical & Trader's net is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

The VOIP Hurricane net is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes 11 linked repeaters, spanning piedmont and eastern North Carolina. The net will also be connected to the Reflector 921 Channel 1 so other IRLP links can join in on the net.

These are the present frequencies and locations that you can use to access the net:

441.725+ (tone of 100.) Raleigh "Backbone Hub" repeater

442.075+ (tone of 88.5) Leland	443.075+ (tone of 100.) Clinton
444.150+ (tone of 100.) Clayton	444.325+ (tone of 100.) Holly Springs
444.375+ (tone of 100.) Henderson	444.550+ (tone of 100.) Coats
444.775+ (tone of 100.) Cary	444.775+ (tone of 131.8) Castle Hayne
444.875+ (tone of 100.) Wendell	444.925+ (tone of 100.) Durham

CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

If you would like your net information included in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

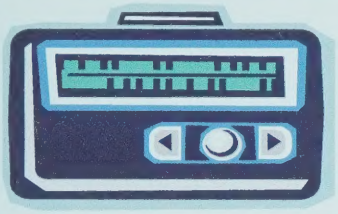
Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

Upcoming CCS Information nets include:
February 13 — "NC Department of Transportation's Travelers Information Management System and Weather" with Kelly Damron of NC DOT.

March 13 — A severe weather topic TBA with NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

Please note that our website has changed. We are now located at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net. Don't forget to change your bookmarks and linked pages!



Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) net** on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

The **Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter Net** meets at 9 pm on the 145.13 repeater (tone 82.5). All stations are invited to participate in this net. MARA provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.

The **Wake County ARES net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

The RARS
Exciter
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
RALEIGH, NC
PERMIT NO. 2130

Coming Soon:
The 35th Annual RARSFest!

Sunday, April 1, 2007 from 8 am - 3:30 pm
in the Exposition Center at the
North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, NC

Northern Piedmont's Largest Hamfest
ARRL North Carolina State Convention

- ★ Free Parking
- ★ 50,000 sq. ft. — All Indoor
- ★ Climate-Controlled Facility
- ★ N4C Special Event Station
- ★ Build a J-Pole
- ★ Fox Hunt
- ★ Walk-In VE Testing
- ★ Prizes